Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 L-03 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 COME-00 OPIC-12 EB-11 SWF-02

DRC-01 /104 W

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R 181508Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0336

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 5692

PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, CI

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH ADMIRAL MERINO ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

REF: A) STATE 197988; B) USDAO SANTIAGO 171610Z SEPT.

- 1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO SEPT. 17 TO INFORM HIM OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT FOR WHEAT AND COTTON. ADMIRAL WAS VERY PLEASED AND EXPRESSED SINCERE THANKS FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. HE SAID GOC NEEDED THIS KIND OF GOOD NEWS IN VIEW OF SEVERE ADVERSE EFFECT ON CHILE OF RECENT PRECIPITOUS DROP IN WORLD COPPER PRICES. MERINO SAID HE WOULD DESIGNATE GOC NEGOTIATORS FOR PL-480 DISCUSSIONS IMMEDIATELY, AND TALKS COULD BEGIN EARLY NEXT WEEK.
- 2. SWITCHING SUBJECTS, MERINO CONFIRMED HE WOULD ARRIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. ON OCT. 4 (REF B) VIA COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, ACCOMPANIED BY MIN. ECONOMIC COORDINATION RAUL SAEZ, SUBSECRETARY OF ECONOMY SERGIO DE CASTRO AND SERGIO UNDURRAGA OF NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE. THEY EXPECT TO BE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL OCT. 7, DURING WHICH TIME MERINO WILL BE PARTLY OCCUPIED WITH CHILEAN NAVY MATTERS. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET WITH DEPT. OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED DEPUTY CONFIDENTIAL

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ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE CONTACT POINT.

CHILEAN EMBASSY IS MAKING ALL WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS.

3. MERINO AND PARTY PLAN VISIT NEW YORK CITY ON OCT. 8, CHICAGO OCT. 9-10 AND SAN FRANCISCO OCT. 11 TO DISCUSS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CHILE WITH U.S. BUSINESSES. SOME FINAL AGREEMENTS WITH INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED AT THIS TIME. MERINO SAID BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL IS HELPING WITH NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO ARRANGEMENTS.

4. SEE REF B FOR REMAINDER OF SCHEDULE. POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PL 480 TITLE 1, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05692

Document Number: 1974SANTIA05692 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D740262-0056

From: SANTIAGO Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740935/aaaabdja.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION ARA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 197988; B) USDAO SANTIAGO 1, 71610Z SEPT.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 JUL 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: EFIN, ECON, CI, US, (MERINO)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005